

AMENDMENT(S) TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4 line 15 of the specification and ending at page 5, line 5 with the following amended paragraph:

The method herein includes reacting a source of inorganic oxide with an ~~an~~ ^{[[a]]} complexing agent at a complexation temperature ~~in the absence of water~~. The complexing agent comprises at least one amine, preferably an alkanolamine, which solubilizes the inorganic oxide by forming a complex such as an alkanolamine-inorganic oxide complex. The complexation reaction includes heating a mixture of the amine and inorganic oxide source to a complexation temperature of typically from about 150°C to about 250°C, preferably from about 180°C to about 220°C for a period of time ranging from about 10 minutes to about 48 hours, a pressure of from about 0.1 bar to 2 bars, and under an atmosphere of air or inert gas such as nitrogen or argon. At temperatures above 250°C the complex formed between the inorganic oxide and the complexing agents described herein begins to decompose as described below. Therefore, in this first step of the inventive method the complexation temperature should not go above 250°C, and preferably should be below 240°C.